REMARKS

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

3. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein successive Nα-substituted α-D-amino-acid residues in the β-strand-forming section of peptide are separated from each other by single Nα-unsubstituted α-D-amino-acid residues, such that the β-strand-forming section of peptide comprises an alternating sequence of Nα-substituted and Nα-unsubstituted α-D-amino-acid residues.

4. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ wherein the Nα-substituent of each Nα-substituted α-D-amino-acid residue in the β-strand-forming section of peptide sterically allows or promotes the β-strand-forming section of peptide to form a β-strand, and sterically hinders the association of the said second edge of that β-strand with another β-strand.

6. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the side chain of each α-D-amino-acid residue in the β-strand-forming section of peptide allows or promotes the β-strand forming section of peptide to form a β-strand.

8. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 6 ~~or claim 7~~, wherein the side chain of any one or more α-D-amino-acid residues in the β-strand forming section of the peptide is selected from the group consisting of:

an atom or group that allows or promotes the β-strand-forming section of peptide to associate as a β-strand with the target β-strand and thereby form a stable β-sheet complex; and

an atom or group that forms a hydrophobic or electrostatic interaction, hydrogen bond, or other favourable non-covalent interaction with the neighbouring side chain of the target β-strand in

a β-sheet complex comprising the target β-strand and the β-strand-forming section of peptide.

9. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 6 ~~any one of claims 6 to 8~~, wherein the side chain of any one or more α-D-amino-acid residues in the β-strand-forming section of peptide is selected from the group consisting of:

a hydrophobic group, or a group that has a considerable hydrophobic portion;

a branched or unbranched alkyl or aliphatic group;

a group that is branched at its connecting β-carbon atom;

an aromatic group;

an acidic or basic group; and

an amide- or hydroxyl-containing group.

10. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the side chain of one or more α-D-amino-acid residues in the β-strand-forming section of peptide hinders the stacking of β-sheets.

12. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the side chain of one or more α-D-amino-acid residues in the β-strand-forming section of peptide allows the compound or composition to be traced or detected.

14. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the side chain of one or more α-D-amino-acid residues in the β-strand-forming section of peptide is selected from the group consisting of the side chain of:

any naturally occurring α-L-amino-acid or synthetic derivative thereof; glycine; alanine; serine; cysteine; threonine; valine; leucine; isoleucine; methionine; phenylalanine; tyrosine; tryptophan; glutamine; asparagine; glutamate; aspartate; histidine; lysine; arginine; and

tert-leucine or β-hydroxyvaline.

15. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ wherein the target β-strand is formed by the Alzheimer's Aβ peptide, and the β-strand-forming section of peptide binds specifically as a β-strand to part or all of the KLVFFAE sequence within the target β-strand in the parallel orientation, thereby forming a parallel β-sheet complex wherein consecutive residues of the β-strand-forming section of peptide lie diagonally opposite consecutive residues of the KLVFFAE sequence in the same order.

16. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ wherein the target β-strand is formed by the Alzheimer's Aβ peptide, and the β-strand-forming section of peptide binds specifically as a β-strand to part or all of the KLVFFAE sequence within the target β-strand in the antiparallel orientation, thereby forming an antiparallel β-sheet complex wherein consecutive residues of the β-strand-forming section of peptide lie diagonally opposite consecutive residues of the KLVFFAE sequence in reverse order.

17. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ wherein the β-strand-forming section of peptide is preceded by, followed by, or otherwise attached to a distinct membrane-penetrating section of peptide which enables the β-strand-forming section of peptide to cross biological barriers such as cell membranes and the blood-brain barrier.

19. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ wherein the β-strand-forming section of peptide has a free or acylated N terminus and a free, amidated, or esterified C terminus, or forms part of a larger peptide which has a free or acylated N terminus and a free, amidated, or esterified C terminus.

20. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ wherein the β-strand-forming section of peptide is attached to another functional component.

22. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 20 ~~or claim 21~~, wherein attachment of the β-strand-forming section of peptide to the functional component is by means of an amide or ester linkage formed with the C-terminal carboxyl group or N-terminal amino group of the full peptide, or with a carboxyl, amino, or hydroxyl group of a side chain within the full peptide, or by means of a disulphide bridge formed with a thiol group of a side chain within the full peptide.

23. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ wherein the β-strand-forming section of peptide comprises between 5 and 10 amino-acid residues and/or includes a sequence of side chains that is homologous to or identical to the amino-acid sequence FFVLK (SEQ. ID. NO. 3).

24. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ wherein the β-strand-forming section of peptide associates with a target β-strand comprising the amino-acid sequence KLVFF (SEQ. ID. NO. 1).

25. (amended) A chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ comprising one or more components which mimic the structure and action of said β-strand-forming section of peptide, in addition to or instead of said β-strand-forming section of peptide, wherein the components which mimic the structure and action of the β-strand-forming section of peptide are formed by replacing one or more of the backbone peptide groups or side-chain groups of the β-strand-forming section of peptide by another chemical group of similar stereochemistry and ability to form favourable non-covalent interactions with the target β-strand.

27. (amended) A method for inhibiting or reversing the association of a target β-strand into a β-sheet or β-fibre, comprising exposing the target β-strand to a chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ and allowing or inducing the chemical compound or composition to associate with the target β-strand.

28. (amended) The use of a chemical compound or composition according to ~~claim 1~~ any one of claims 1 to 26 in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting or reversing the association of a target β-strand into a β-sheet or β-fibre.

29. (amended) A method for inhibiting or reversing the aggregation of proteins or peptides, comprising contacting the proteins or peptides with a chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~.

30. (amended) The use of a chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~ in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting or reversing the aggregation of proteins or peptides.

31. (amended) A method for assisting in the refolding of denatured or aggregated proteins or peptides, comprising contacting the aggregated proteins or peptides with a chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~.

32. (amended) The use of a chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~ in the manufacture of a medicament for assisting in the refolding of denatured or aggregated proteins or peptides.

33. (amended) The use of a chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~ in the preparation of a composition for the diagnosis, study, or treatment of a disease caused by the aggregation of proteins or peptides.

34. (amended) A method for inhibiting the oligomerisation or association of protein subunits, comprising exposing the protein subunits to a chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~.

35. (amended) The use of a chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~ in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting the oligomerisation or association of protein subunits.

36. (amended) The method of claim 34 ~~or the use of claim 35~~ applied to inhibit the oligomerisation of an enzyme whose catalytic activity depends on its oligomerisation by the association of β-strands.

37. (amended) A method for indicating the presence or location of β-strands, β-sheets, or β-fibres, comprising exposing a test sample to a chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~ which comprises a detectable moiety.

38. (amended) The use of a chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~ which comprises a detectable moiety, in the manufacture of an agent for indicating the presence or location of β-strands, β-sheets, or β-fibres.

39. (amended) A method for affinity or protein-renaturation chromatography, comprising the steps of covalently attaching a chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~ to a solid matrix, resin, or support; passing a test sample over the column; and separating the desired treated product from the column.

40. (amended) A combinatorial library comprising chemical compounds or compositions according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~.

41. (amended) A pharmaceutical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~.

42. (amended) A method of diagnosing, studying or treating a disease caused by the aggregation of proteins or peptides, comprising contacting the proteins or peptides with a chemical compound or composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~.